

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee Minutes from 12/11/08 meeting

Present: Meg Vickery, Chair; Susan Waite, DPW Liaison; Marianne Lorenzelli; Lucy McMurrer; Sterling Bush; John Root; Greg Keochakian.

November minutes were approved without changes.

Membership

Sterling is officially a member now. John's membership is being processed. Greg will fill out the form and begin the process. Marianne's membership is renewed. Susan may contact some of the ARHS science teachers suggested in the last meeting but our committee membership may be reaching its desired number.

Grant Update

We received a \$2K grant for the recycling trailer for downtown! Congratulations Susan!

2009 Committee Goals

BY APRIL 2009 WE'D LIKE TO HAVE SOLID WORK ON THE FOLLOWING:

Downtown Business Recycling

- Waste hauler regulations – to ensure it's clear that businesses *must* recycle.
- Enforcement – the DPW, police, and Dept. of Health can all enforce recycling laws. Do we want to do this?
- Hauler Communication – if there *are* changes to be explained to haulers, we need to clearly communicate these. Haulers may not know what they're legally responsible for.
- Business education/information dissemination – we need to make sure businesses know what they're legally responsible for and entitled to vis-à-vis recycling.

Styrofoam Ban

Lucy will check on other MA communities who have instituted a similar ban. We also need alternative sources for products to be banned to help area businesses.

Earth Day

Since the scavenger hunt was such a positive event for downtown, Susan would like to expand it and drop the tables and speakers for 2009. Greg said the Fisher Home is interested in participating next year. The Amherst Chamber of Commerce, Promoting Downtown Amherst, and Susan herself are great resources to get the word out about this. This is a win-win effort for area business and public education. Let's increase the number of businesses participating (there were 10 this past Earth Day).

School Composting

This is an on-going project that the composting subcommittee is working on. Two goals of the subcommittee are 1) public education/awareness and 2) expand on-site school composting to Marks Meadow or Wildwood Elementary school (or both!).

BEGINNING MAY 2009 WE'D LIKE TO WORK ON THE FOLLOWING:

Amherst Recycles Day

What can we do to promote this event (which takes place in November)?

Amherst's 250th Anniversary

September 27th is the celebration for Amherst's 250th – do we want to be part of the parade?

New Business

Transfer Station Request

Sterling said the Transfer Station shed roofs need repair. The Book Shed's fiberglass roof leaks, ruining books and the Take-It-Or-Leave-It roof needs work. Does the Committee have any way to help? Any ideas would be great. This is an agenda item for next month.

RRMC Meeting Date

The day of RRMC meetings has been changed to the *first* Thursday of every month (from the second Thursday). However, the first Thursday of January is a holiday so for January's meeting only, we will meet on the *second* Thursday.

Next committee meeting scheduled for *the second Thursday of January*, the 8th at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy McMurrer